

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action December 16, 2003. Claims 1-20 remain pending.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-8, 10-12, and 16-20 under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent 6,253,240 to Axberg et al. (Axberg) in view of U.S. Patent 6,131,112 to Lewis et al. (Lewis). The Examiner has also rejected Claim 15 under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Axberg and Lewis in view of U.S. Patent 5,854,102 to McChesney (McChesney).

Applicants have amended Claims 1, 14, and 16. Claims 2-15 depend upon independent Claim 1 and Claims 17-20 are dependent upon Claims 16, and thus in effect each pending claim has been amended. Applicants hereby request reconsideration of all the claim rejections and allowance of amended Claims 1-20.

Regarding the obviousness rejection of amended Claims 1-8, 10-12, and 16-20 over Axberg in view of Lewis, Applicants believe that the amended claims are not obvious because there is no teaching or suggestion to combine the references to provide an embodiment of Applicants claims, and even if combined the yielded embodiment would still not produce Applicants claimed invention.

Applicants claim a network architecture for the management of one or more of a plurality of storage devices by one or more clients, including a storage server that communicates with one or more clients via an object-oriented dynamic linking mechanism so that the one or more clients can manage the one or more of a plurality of storage devices. Axberg, on the other hand, is directed toward a graphical user interface

display for configuring a storage network . There is no reference to the management by one or more clients via an object-oriented dynamic linking mechanism so that the one or more clients can manage the one or more of a plurality of storage devices as in Applicants claimed invention for management by clients . Lewis is directed to a gateway for integration between a network management platform and a system management platform. The combination of the two does not yield Applicants' invention and there is no teaching or suggestion in either of Applicants claimed invention.

Applicants respectfully assert that Axberg in view of Lewis does not render Applicants' Claim 15 obvious, because it fails to meet the requirements for obviousness for the reasons given above, in relation to Claim 1, on which Claim 15 depends. Applicants further respectfully assert that the rejection under 103(a) of Claims 1-8, 10-12, and 16-20 should be removed in view of the amended claims and the arguments above.

Regarding the obviousness rejections of claims 9, 13-14, and 15 which all depend on amended claim 1 and which all stem from the primary reference of Axberg, Applicants respectfully suggest that these rejections are unwarranted and improper for the same reasons as discussed above with reference to the obviousness rejection of other claims depending from 1 and relying upon the teachings of at least Axberg.

For the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully suggest that Claims 1-20, are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, notice of allowance of these claims is hereby respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned, "Version with Markings to Show Changes made to Claims."

Should the Examiner feel that a telephonic discussion may assist in furthering this matter toward issuance in due course or should the Examiner have concerns or questions, then the Examiner is invited to call the practitioner listed below at the number given.

Respectfully submitted,

March 7, 2003

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Date

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Version with Markings to Show Changes made to Claims

1. (Twice Amended) A network architecture for the management of one or more of a plurality of storage devices by one or more clients comprising;

a storage system including a plurality of storage

devices;

a plurality of host computers, each host computer including at least one agent for transmitting data to and retrieving data from one or more of the plurality of storage devices;

[a plurality of] one or more clients; and

one or more storage management servers in communication with, at least one agent, the [plurality of] one or more clients and the plurality of storage devices, the one or more storage management servers providing information received from an agent and relating to the operation status of the storage devices to the one or more [at least one of the] clients via an object-oriented dynamic linking mechanism so that the one or more clients can manage one or more storage devices of the plurality of storage devices.

14. (Twice Amended) The network architecture of claim 1 wherein each of the one or more storage management servers includes:

a poller for gathering information relating to the operation status of the storage device; and

a central repository for storing information relating to the operation status of said one of the storage devices; and

an object server for distributing the information relating to the operation status of said one of the storage devices to [at least one of] the one or more clients, wherein the object server and the one or more clients communicate via an object-oriented dynamic linking mechanism.

16. (Twice Amended) A method of managing a storage system by one or more clients including

a plurality of storage devices, the storage system communicating data to and from a plurality of host computers, wherein each host has at least one agent for communicating with the storage system, the method comprising:

providing a storage management server between
[a plurality of] one or more clients and the plurality of storage devices,
providing to the storage management server from the at least one agent information relating to the configuration of the storage system;

collect, from the storage management server,
information relating to the configuration of the storage system; and

providing by the storage management server, the information to [at least one of] the one or more clients, wherein the server and the one or more clients communicate via an object-oriented dynamic linking mechanism.